Prime Minister's visit to Jordan etc.

1192. SHRIMATI REUNKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of India visited Jordan and some other countries during July, 1988;

(b) if so, the names of the countries visited by the Prime Minister;

(c) the nature of talks held with the leaders of those countries and if so, the outcome in regard thereof; and

(d) the foreign exchange involved in this visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prime Minister visited Jordan (July 11—13), Yugoslavia (July 13—15); Spain (July 15—17) and Turkey (July 17 to 20, 1988).

(c) Prime Minister received a warm welcome in all the countries visited. The talks with Heads of Government and other leaders were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere and were characterised by goodwill on both sides. During these visits, Prime Minister reviewed matters of bilateral, regional and international concern with leaders of these countries with a view to further strengthening of bilateral ties and extending cooperation with these countries on regional and international issues.

The visit to Jordan provided an opportunity for an in-depth review of the entire gamut of Indo-Jordanian bilateral relations and the establishment of a joint commission for the purpose. The talks focused on providing a further boost to bilateral exchanges particularly in the economic, commercial and scientific fields on an institutionalised basis.

In Yugoslavia, it was stressed that as two of the founder members of the Non-Aligned Movement, it was important for India and Yugoslavia to visualise new political directions in view of the far-reaching changes in the international environment and the need to maintain and enhance the effectiveness of the Non-Aligned Movement in this context. Consultation and contact would be continued between the two countries for this purpose, as also with a view to intensifying South-South Cooperation and reviewing the world economic situation in order to formulate proposals for the resolution of the existing problems including the debt crisis. Yugoslavia extended total support to PM's Action Plan on Disarmament. Three agreements/protocols viz. an Agreement on Information and Broadcasting, a Programme for Science and Technology Cooperation over the next three years and a Protocol on Bilateral Cooperation in Sports were signed during the visit. Several decisions were also taken to expend trade on a balanced basis as well as to intensify economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation.

In Spain, the Prime Ministers of India and Spain decided to intensify the political dialogue between the two countries. The Spanish leaders reiterated their strong endorsement of the Sixth-Nation Initiative and promised support for our Action Plan on Disarmament. As part of the efforts to intensify economic and commercial relations between the two countries, it was agreed: (i) to consider reviving the Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy which lapsed in 1977; (ii) to explore Joint ventures/cooperation in fisheries which is an area of much promise. Spain also showed interest in Joint Ventures in pharmaceuticals; (iii) Spain which will assume the Presidency of the EEC from January 1, 1989 indicated that it would help India to expand/safe-

guard its interests in the EEC and within the EEC it will help to promote the North-South dialogue; (iv) pending agreements on tourism and science and technology will be expedited; (v) Spanish Government will use its influence with Iberia so that its flights to India which were suspended in February this year will be resumed, (vi) the two sides will participate in the important Trade Fairs in the respective countries.

In Turkey, the following three agreements were signed during Prime Minister's visit:

(i) Maritime Agreement.

(ii) Mutual Judicial Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters.

(iii) Mutual Judicial Assistance in Criminal Matters.

In addition, an agreement was signed between IRCON and the Turkish National Railways for a US Dollar 25 million railway electrification project. It was also agreed that: (i) a banking delegation led by the Governor of the Central Bank of Turkey will visit India in October/November; (ii) further negotiations for finalishing the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement will be held in Delhi in December 1988; and (iii) Turkish side will send an agricultural delegation to India in early spring 1989.

The visits have provided a fresh impetus to our growing relations with the respective countries and we look forward to a strengthening of our cooperation with them, both bilaterally and in international forums.

(d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Pakistan's Arms Trade with South Africa

1193 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 10th July, 1988, captioned "Pak arms trade with South Arrica in offing";

(b) if so, what is the Government's information about the arms trade links reportedly growing between Pakistan and South Africa; and

(c) whether any of the international arms dealers having dealings with India are also supplying arms or having trade dealings with South Africa; and whether Government have gone into the likelihood of passing of secret information regarding arms purchased or procured by India to South Africa through the dealers and then on the Pakistan; if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Government have seen the press report but have no confirmed information regarding any arms deal between Pakistan and South Africa.

(c) Government have no means of securing such information.

Prime Minister's recent visit to Jordan

1194. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Jordan, Palestenian problem and Iran-Iraq war came up for discussions with Jordanian Government and the monarch of Jordan;

(b) if so, in what precise terms these issues were discused; and